



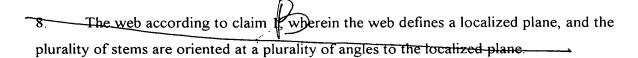
## Claims:



- 1. A web of material having at least two major sides, the web comprising:

  a plurality of discrete regions on at least a first major side of the web; and
  a plurality of stems extending from each discrete region;
  wherein the plurality of stems are fused and formed to at least the first major side of the web.
- The web according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of stems are attached directly to the first major side of the web.
- The web according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of stems are comprised of a thermoplastic material selected from the group consisting of: polyurethane, polyolefins, polystyrenes, polycarbonates, polyester, polymethacrylate, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymers, polyvinylchloride, acrylate modified ethylene vinyl acetate polymers, and ethylene acrylic acid copolymers.
- 4. The web according to claim 1, wherein the discrete regions cover between 5 and 25 percent of the first major side of the web.
- 5. The web according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the web is configured and arranged to engage the plurality of stems.
- 6. The web according to claim 1, wherein the web comprises an elastic material
- The web according to claim 6, wherein the elastic material is selected from the group consisting of: natural and synthetic rubbers; styrene block copolymers containing isoprene, butadiene, or ethylene(butylene) blocks; metallocene-catalyzed polyolefins, polyurethanes, and polydiorganosiloxanes.

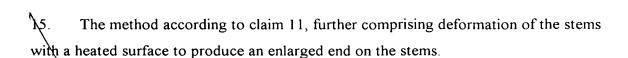




- 9. The web according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the stems is shaped to provide directional hooking capability.
- 10. The web according to claim 1, wherein the discrete regions are separated an average of approximately 0.05 and 30 centimeters from one another.

A method of making a web material having a plurality of stems extending from discrete regions of the web, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a web;
- (b) providing discrete quantities of a polymeric material at a temperature above its softening point;
  - (c) fusing the discrete quantities of the polymeric material to the web; and
- (d) forming a plurality of stems in each of the discrete quantities of the polymeric material.
- 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein fusing the discrete quantities of polymeric material to the web occurs simultaneously with forming a plurality of stems in each of the discrete quantities of polymeric material.
- 13. The method according to claim 11, wherein the discrete quantities of polymeric material are provided by extruding molten polymer in a form selected from intermittent quantities and continuous ribbons.
- 14. The method according to claim 11, wherein the discrete quantities of polymeric material are provided by one or more rotating cutting blades positioned intermediate a source of polymeric material and the web, wherein the cutting blades cut the polymeric material into discrete quantities.



- The method according to claim 11, further comprising re-orienting the stems with a heated surface.
- 17. A method of making a web material having a plurality of stems extending from at least one side of the web, the method comprising:
  - (a) providing a polymeric web comprising a polymer at a temperature above its softening point;
  - (b) providing a tool having a surface with a plurality of stem-forming holes configured in discrete regions; and
  - (c) pressing the web against the tool surface under pressure to form regions of stems on the surface of the web.
- 18. The method of claim 17 in which the discrete regions of stem-forming holes are formed by masking a portion of the stem-forming holes in the tool of part (b).
- 19. The method according to claim 17, further comprising deformation of the stems with a heated surface to produce a disk-shaped end on the stems.
- 20. The method of claim 17 in which between 5 and 25 percent of the surface area of the tool of part (b) is occupied by the stem-forming holes.

